

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 12-15 stand rejected while Claims 4-6, 10, 11, and 16-20 are allowable but objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended. In light of those amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow all of the pending claims.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102:** The Examiner Rejected Claims 1, 2, and 12-15 under §102 as being anticipated by USPN 4,709,250 issued to Takeuchi.

Takeuchi is directed to an image forming apparatus capable of producing a selected pulse width to achieve a desired image density. See Takeuchi, Abstract. To this end, Takeuchi teaches modulating a laser (9) according to a pulse signal (C) having a pulse width (T3). Takeuchi, col. 4, lines 39-46. The modulated laser beam is scanned across a photosensitive member (1) resulting in a surface potential (V) on photosensitive member (1). Takeuchi, col. 4, lines 46-48. The photosensitive member (1) is scanned to identify a value or (V). Takeuchi, col. 4, lines 46-51. Based on that value a microprocessor (20) selects a pulse width for forming a half-tone image of a desired density. Takeuchi, col. 4, lines 51-59.

To select the pulse width, the microprocessor (20) compares the value of (V) with a target half-tone potential value ( $V_H$ ). If  $(V) - (V_H)$  is within a specified tolerance, the pulse width (T3) is used. If not, the microprocessor (20) calculates a new pulse width as a function of (T3). Takeuchi, col. 4, line 43 through col. 5, line 37.

**Claim 1** is directed to a method for correcting a half tone pulse width count and recites the following acts:

1. determining the half tone pulse width count, the half tone pulse width count being a measure of the accumulated width of two or more pulses associated with the printing of half tone pixels;

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2. determining a half tone level; and
3. calculating a corrected half tone pulse width count based on the half tone pulse width count and the half tone level.

In a prior response, the Applicants argued that the Examiner mistakenly equated Takeuchi's pulse width (T3) with a pulse width count. The Examiner responded that the phrase "pulse width count" is not distinguishable from a "regular pulse width" without a provision setting "forth an amount of time the pulse width is accumulated." Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the halftone pulse width count is a measure of the accumulated width of two or more pulses associated with the printing of half tone pixels. Plainly the recited halftone pulse count is distinguishable from Takeuchi's pulse width (T3).

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Takeuchi as are Claims 2-6 which depend from Claim 1.

**Claim 12** is directed to an apparatus that includes a processor system configured to implement the method of Claim 1. For the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 12 and Claims 13-20 which depend from Claim 12.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103:** The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 8 as being obvious in light of Takeuchi. The Examiner rejected Claims 3 and 9 as being unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of USPN 5, 617, 216 issued to Wada.

**Claim 7** is directed to a computer readable medium on which is embedded computer software capable of implementing the method of Claim 1. For the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable so are Claim 7 and Claims 8, 9, 10, and 11 which depend from Claim 7.

**Claim 3** depends from Claim 1 and includes all the limitations of that base claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so is Claim 3.

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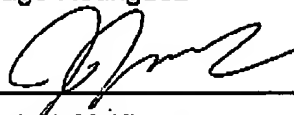
Claim 3 depends from Claim 7 and includes all the limitations of that base claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 7 is patentable, so is Claim 9.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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